

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the entire abstract page with the following amended abstract:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**~~In-line process and device for measuring the  
characteristics of a surface coating on a metallurgical  
product~~**

To measure the characteristics of the surface coating (1) of a moving metal strip, such as the alliation level of a coating including zinc and iron, the said product is exposed to the radiation (23) of a radiative source (24) with a predetermined wavelength directed orthogonally to the surface of the product and the energy reflected by the said surface is measured also in a direction orthogonal to the surface so as to overcome reflectivity variations due to the morphological characteristics of the surface and these operations are performed with the help of off-the-shelf optical fibres previously stripped at their free ends (21, 31) of their normal optical focusing accessories so that they can be brought as near to each other as possible and placed parallel to each other.

**FIG. 1**